



Suns shine

Different L.A., same result: Phoenix wins Game 1

SPORTS ■ C1

Making the grade

Kiplinger's ranks Duke City No. 3 on list of 'Smart Places'

BUSINESS ■ C6



Frannie found!

After 12 days, wandering tortoise is found and returned home

N.M. & METRO ■ D1



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A Good Reason To Skip Class

Albuquerque student's project shows that schools may drive bird flu pandemic



GLASS: Modeled flu's progress for International Science Fair

By JOHN FLECK Journal Staff Writer INDIANAPOLIS — Blame the teenagers. If a flu pandemic sweeps the world, Laura Glass thinks it will be young people who do much of the spreading. And the best way to halt the disease's spread, according to Glass, is simple: Keep the kids home from school. Lest you think this is some anti-teen hysteria, Glass has the data to back it up. Plus, she's a teenager.

A 15-year-old Albuquerque High School sophomore, Glass is one of 24 students representing New Mexico at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. Nearly 1,500 students have gathered this week at the Indiana Convention Center to compete for \$1.5 million in scholarships and prizes based on their work. Glass's work involved the creation of a virtual town of 10,000 people — a computerized world where she could experiment on the

spread of a disease such as the Spanish flu of 1918, which killed an estimated 50 million to 100 million people worldwide. To try to cope with the possibility of a similar outbreak today, public health officials around the world are looking at vaccination or anti-viral drugs. But there are problems with that approach, Glass said Monday. Even if the drugs were available, it might be difficult to distribute them in a timely fashion, she said.

And for poor countries, drugs might not be affordable at all. So Glass tackled the basic way the disease spreads — from one human to the next. She built a "social network model," a computer simulation of whom people come into close contact with on a daily basis. Family members are able, for example, to infect one another, as are co-workers, students in schools and people in social settings. That's where the teenagers come

in. In a typical day, according to Glass, an average teenager could come into close enough contact with 140 people to have a chance of giving them a flu — the most contact of any group. All school-age children would be at risk of spreading the disease, of course, but middle and high school students, who have numerous classes each day, come in contact with the most people. In her computer simulation, See STUDENT on PAGE A4

MAYOR TAKES FLIGHT



Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chávez took a ride in an Eclipse 500 jet Monday. The mayor rode in the front left seat, where he said he was given a chance to take the controls as the jet cruised at 14,000 feet over the city and Belen. "It was magnificent," he said after the 45-minute flight. Comparing it to a commercial airliner, Chávez described the \$1.3 million jet as "very private." "And we could use our cell phones," he said. "I got a call from the governor while I was up there; I didn't take it."

DEAN HANSON/JOURNAL

Bagman Kept Bagging While Helping FBI

Vigil's Attorney Asks About Bilking Elderly

By SCOTT SANDLIN Journal Staff Writer Angelo Garcia, the admitted bagman skimming a percentage off investments in the state Treasurer's Office, testified Monday that he continued reaping money from deals even after he was cooperating with the FBI. That was one of the tidbits in the public corruption trial of former Treasurer Robert Vigil, who has pleaded not guilty to 28 counts of racketeering, conspiracy, money laundering and extortion while in office. His trial entered the fourth week Monday before Senior U.S. District Judge James A. Parker. The prosecution is expected to conclude its case Wednesday, and the defense will begin

calling witnesses. Garcia, in cross-examination by Vigil lawyer Sam Bregman, said he didn't think the FBI knew about the investment money Garcia was raking in from elderly clients whom he stands accused in state court of defrauding. At least four representatives of the New Mexico Attorney General's Office, which is prosecuting the state case against Garcia, were in the audience for all or part of Garcia's testimony. Garcia pleaded guilty in federal court to one count of extortion and agreed to testify. Before Vigil's trial began there was some question about whether or not he would invoke his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination, the plea deal notwithstanding, because of the pending state action. He is accused of bilking clients, most of them in their 80s and 90s, out of tens of thousands of



JAKE SCHOELLKOPF/FOR THE JOURNAL

Former state Treasurer Robert Vigil, center, carries a box as he leaves federal court Monday afternoon with his wife, Viola Vigil, and his attorney Sam Bregman.

See BAGMAN on PAGE A2

Iran's 'Diplomatic Opening' Shut

Rice Sees Little In Ahmadinejad's Letter

By ANNE GEARAN The Associated Press NEW YORK — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice dismissed a letter that Iran's president sent to President Bush on Monday, saying the first direct communication from an Iranian leader in 27 years does not help resolve the standoff over Tehran's disputed nuclear program. Iran's top nuclear negotiator called the surprise letter a new "diplomatic opening" between the two countries, but Rice said it was not. "This letter is not the place that one

would find an opening to engage on the nuclear issue or anything of the sort," the top U.S. diplomat said. "It isn't addressing the issues that we're dealing with in a concrete way." Rice said the letter from Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was 17 or 18 pages long and covered history, philosophy and religion. Rice's comments were the most detailed response from the United States to the letter, the first from an



AHMADINEJAD: Letter was first from Iranian leader in 27 years

Iranian head of state to an American president since the 1979 hostage crisis at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. She would not discuss the contents in detail, but made clear that the United States would not change its tack on Iran. "There's nothing in here that would suggest that we're on any different course than we were before we got the letter," Rice said. The United States has had no diplomatic ties and almost no economic relationship with Iran since the storming of the embassy and the kidnapping of U.S. diplomats. Rice was using a two-day trip to the United Nations to confer on the inter-

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By TRIP JENNINGS Journal Capitol Bureau SANTA FE — The three candidates vying for the Democratic nomination for state attorney general have spent nearly two-thirds of a million dollars combined through May 1, with a month still to go before the June 6 primary election. Geno Zamora, who is locked in the primary contest with Gary King and Lemuel Martinez, is out front in fundraising and spending, according to campaign finance reports filed Monday with the Secretary of State's Office. Zamora, a former legal counsel to Gov. Bill Richardson, has raised \$434,513 over the past year, while spending \$311,000, according to his 109-page report. One of Zamora's largest expenses was a \$63,000 media buy. Made April 20 with Media Strategies & Research of Fairfax, Va., the purchase was to buy television time to run campaign See DEMOCRATS on PAGE A4



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Gov. Has \$5.5M in War Chest as of Latest Report

from PAGE A1

His closing balance was nearly 270 times the amount Republican challenger J.R. Damron reported in his campaign reports.

Neither Richardson nor Damron has any primary election opposition on the ballot.

Monday's 300-plus-page contribution list filed with the Secretary of State's Office is "an incredibly strong testimony to a governor who has a very aggressive agenda to get things done for the state," Richardson campaign manager Amanda Cooper said shortly before the 5 p.m. filing deadline. "People are proud of this governor."

Cash-challenged

Damron, a Santa Fe radiologist, reported total contributions of about \$303,000 dating back to last February, with most of it — \$190,000 — coming in the form of loans from him and his wife.

Damron reported a closing bank balance of just under \$21,000.

Paige McKenzie, Damron's spokeswoman and acting campaign manager, said Damron will be taking a leave of absence from his medical practice later this month to campaign full time. She said she expects his fundraising totals will rise.

"Obviously, we want to raise more — and we will raise more," McKenzie said. "This is a marathon; it's not a sprint. J.R. is running his campaign like he'll run state government: lean and efficient. Bill Richardson is running his campaign like he runs state government: bloated and inflated."



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In November, Gov. Bill Richardson hosted one of his political fundraisers at a Rolling Stones concert in San Diego, with the help of more than \$2,500 worth of free concert tickets donated by a giant California mortgage firm.

Cooper, responding to McKenzie's claim, pointed to a conservative think tank, the Cato Institute, naming Richardson the nation's most fiscally responsible Democratic governor. Cooper said the Richardson campaign expects the national Republican Party to pour cash into Damron's campaign as the November general election comes closer.

Richardson's contributors include retirees, educators, business owners, state workers and lawyers, among others. Big business and celebrity names are throughout the report.

Producer Norman Lear of Los Angeles plunked down \$4,000 to the Richardson camp last spring, while a musician identified as "Mr. Don Henley" gave \$5,000.

A Don Henley is a member of Rock and Roll Hall of Famers the Eagles and an accomplished solo artist.

Business contributions to the Richardson campaign included at least \$10,000 from Lovelace Sandia Health System, \$3,000 from mining company Moly-corp Inc. and \$2,000 from Coca-Cola.

Gambling interests also wrote sizable checks to the Richardson campaign, including at least \$5,000 from The Downs at Albuquerque president Paul Blanchard and \$10,000 from SunRay Gaming of New Mexico.

Richardson in November hosted one of his political fundraisers at a Rolling Stones concert in San Diego, courtesy

of more than \$2,500 worth of free concert tickets donated by a giant California mortgage firm.

Ameriquest, a national mortgage company and a sponsor of the Stones' "A Bigger Bang" tour, gave 10 tickets to the Richardson gubernatorial camp for the Nov. 11 fundraiser, Cooper said in a recent interview.

"They donated, in-kind, the tickets for us to be able to do the event," Cooper said, adding the 10 tickets were valued at an estimated \$2,575.

A list of in-kind contributions to the Richardson campaign shows Ameriquest donated more than \$13,000 worth of travel to the campaign.

Several messages left with Ameriquest seeking more details on the ticket donations were not returned.

The Golden State

Richardson attended several gubernatorial fundraisers during the November California trip, including a golf tournament at a luxury Palm Desert development co-hosted by New Mexico casino and racetrack magnate R.D. Hubbard.

Cooper, during an interview shortly after the November trip, didn't mention the Ameriquest donation and declined to release details on how much was raised at the golf tournament, saying the

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amounts would be available in Monday's required finance disclosures with the Secretary of State's office.

New Mexico campaign-finance disclosure reports don't tie a particular contribution with a specific event. But reported contributions from the California weekend include: a \$5,000 donation from the MetLife insurance firm; \$20,000 from VCC Alameda, a California property manage-

ment company; and \$10,000 from the Zia Park racetrack and casino in Hobbs, which Hubbard owns.

Richardson received \$171,500 in campaign donations from lobbyists and their clients in the first four months of this year, the Associated Press has reported.

Among those contributions was \$75,000 from RS Property Fund V, a private equity real-estate fund.

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THE ASTORGA JAILHOUSE INTERVIEW

EXCLUSIVE

Matthew Astorga

ACTION 7 NEWS

TONIGHT AT 10

Coverage You Can Count On

Democrats Spend \$600K on AG Race

from PAGE A1

commercials in the weeks before the primary.

"This is a tough race and New Mexicans from across the state have invested in our effort to put the right experience to work for them as their next attorney general," Zamora said Monday.

King, of Moriarty, is a former state representative and son of former three-term Gov. Bruce King. He has brought in \$305,290 in the past six months, while spending \$115,290, his campaign said.

Martinez, district attorney in the 13th Judicial District, took in \$214,340 during the reporting period from May 2005 to May 1, 2006, while spending \$201,480, according to his campaign report.

King's spokesman Dan Gutierrez said: "We're just pleased. Gary has only been in the race six months. We are working hard throughout the

state."

It was unclear how King spent most of the money he had raised. His campaign had not filed a campaign finance report with the Secretary of State's Office as of 6:30 p.m. Monday.

Gutierrez said the campaign encountered computer problems when trying to file King's campaign finance report.

Candidates not filing their campaign finance reports by Monday's deadline of 5 p.m. are subject to a \$50 fine for each day the report is late, officials in the Secretary of State's Office said Monday. But the penalty could be waived if there is a good reason for the delay.

Whoever wins the Democratic primary for attorney general will face Republican Jim Bibb, who is running unopposed in the GOP primary.

According to his campaign finance report, as of May 1, Bibb had raised \$93,933 and spent \$27,413.

Student Says Teens May Lead Pandemic

from PAGE A1

Glass had adults bring the disease into the community — perhaps returning from a trip. They'd infect their children at home. "From there," she said, "it spreads like crazy, once it gets in the teens in the schools."

In one simulation in her virtual town of 10,000, about half the people got the disease if nothing was done.

The simple way to halt the spread of the disease is to limit the number of contacts people have. Quarantining people is hard. "If you went out and told

everyone in your community to stay home, there's a large percentage that wouldn't do that," she said.

Glass found that a simpler step — closing the schools — had an impressive effect.

Instead of 5,000 people getting sick, the number was reduced to 500.

Glass and her peers are in Indianapolis all week. Judges will review their projects today and Wednesday, then announce the awards and scholarships Thursday and Friday.

Toyota Exec Quits After Sex Harassment Charges

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Toyota Motor North America's president and chief executive, accused in a sexual harassment lawsuit, has stepped down, the company said Tuesday. To replace him, Toyota named its first American president of its U.S. subsidiary.

Hideaki Otaka, 65, who had been scheduled to leave his post in June, has voluntarily left earlier, saying his continued tenure was not in the company's interests. Otaka said he was innocent of the charges.

Last week, Sayaka Kobayashi filed a \$190 million lawsuit in

New York, accusing him of harassing her when she worked as his personal assistant, making repeated unwanted sexual advances after she began working for him last summer. She said the conduct continued until winter, when she was involuntarily transferred out of the job.

Toyota Motor Corp.'s U.S. unit named a new executive team headed by Yuki Funo, now chairman of Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A., as the new chairman and chief executive of Toyota Motor North America, and Jim Press, the president of Toyota Motor Sales, as its new president.

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